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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/902,339 | 07/10/2001 | Rudolf Beisswanger | VOI0202.US | 8901 |
| 7590 | 04/21/2004 | | EXAMINER | |
| TAYLOR & AUST, P.C. 142 S. Main St. P.O. Box 560 Avilla, IN 46710 | | | ALVO, MARC S | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1731 | |

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/902,339 | BEISSWANGER ET AL <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | Examiner Steve Alvo | Art Unit 1731 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 32-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The restriction requirement of July 1, 2003 is repeated and made final;. The non-elected claims are withdrawn as the election was made without traverse. The non-elected claims should be cancelled in response to this action.

DE 200 11 943 has been dropped as a reference as its effective date is not prior to the instant priority date of 7/10/2000.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 32-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/33974 in view of LIEDES et al or DEVLIN or NIEMNEN et al.

WO 98/33974 teaches an apparatus for separating (see Figure 1A-1D) a flexible web (A) from an upstream section to a downstream section having two separation elements (C1 and C2) forming an edge strip (B) an adjoining transfer strip (A') and remaining web portion (A) and one deflection device (see large arrow in Figures 1A and 1B for air deflecting web portion away from edge strip) for deflecting the web away from the edge strip. The edge strip in Figure 1A eventually becomes the web as it is shifted to the right as shown in Figure 1B, forming new edge strip (B). The removal of the edge strip is by deflecting the edge strip is taught by LIEDES et al (see abstract) or DEVLIN (see 91 and 92) or NIEMNEN et al (see abstract). It would have been obvious to the routineer that the edge strip of WO 98/33974 could have been deflected using the deflecting devices of LIEDES et al or DEVLIN or NIEMNEN et al. It would have been obvious

that either the web or edge strip could be deflected as either one could be removed from the either or both deflected from the other to perform the operation of separation.

The argument that LIEDES et al or DEVLIN or NIEMNEN et al do not simultaneously tauten the edge strip upon deflection thereof is not convincing as the strip (A) of WO 98/33974 is tautened as it is deflected away from the strips A' and B. It would have been obvious that the edge strips of LIEDES et al or DEVLIN or NIEMNEN et al could be deflected in a similar manner, e.g. tautened.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

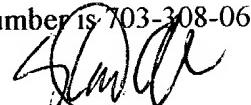
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Alvo whose telephone number is 703-308-2048. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Steve Alvo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

msa
April 16, 2004